THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Railways have no experience in the matter.

(c) No, Sir.

Regular transport service between Haldia and Allahabad

*216. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation to run regular service between Haldia and Allahabad; and

(b) if so, by when such a service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Central Inland Water Transport Corporation is running regular river service between Haldia/Calcutta and Patna. The extension of this service beyond Patna upto Allahabad would be possible after navigability round the year on this stretch is established for which pilot project is in progress.

Under-utilisation of imported copters

*217. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several helicopters, imported at high cost, have been lying grossly under-utilised for lack of demand and that six helicopters meant for VIP use, worth about Rs. 48 crores, are being billed to Indian Air Force only for Rs. 18.2 crores; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) and (b) Of the 42 helicopters acquired by Pawan Hans, 34 helicopters are required to be marketed retaining 8 helicopters for usual mandatory checks, maintenance and certification of airworthiness etc. Out of the 34 helicopters the number of helicopters presently deployed is 25 and 2 helicopters are being used for chartered missions and training. Of the remaining 7 helicopters, 2 helicopters are to be deployed with the Coal India Ltd. very shortly and the requisite contract for the same has already been signed.

The prorate cost of the six Dauphin helicopters in the executive configuration, earlier meant for communication Squadron of I.A.F. was F.F. 121.54 million (equivalent to India Rs. 18.24 crores at the time of agreement).

Incidence of sexually transmitted disease

♦218. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STD) are on the increase in India, resulting in widespread morbidity and mortality; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to control the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The total number of cases of S.T.D. seen/treated in S.T.D. Clinics during the last three years are as under: —

Years	No. of STD cases seen/treated
1984	9,19,035
1985	12,26,858
1986	12,75,822